

Dear Dianne and Carol,

This is to acknowledge my receipt of the joint letter from William Vickrey and Steve Mayberg encouraging local collaboration with the courts in Prop 63 planning to ensure services for offenders who have mental illness.

I wanted to assure you that in San Francisco we are collaborating with the courts (a number of judges are involved), the sheriff's department, public defender's office, probation department, district attorney, providers of behavioral health services to people with mental illness who are ending up in jail or getting arrested, and consumers and family members. in ensuring services for those who are ending up in the criminal justice system because of their mental illness.

We have started a Behavioral Health Court (Mental Health) in San Francisco about 1 1/2 years ago. We continued funding services for Mentally-Ill Offenders after the MIOCR grant expired. We formed a special Prop 63 planning sub-committee for Mentally Ill Offenders, with a broad composition of membership, to plan for services for this population under the Mental Health Services Act, and the sub-committee is very active and collaborative in working together to identify and articulate the needs for this population. San Francisco was also one of 4 jurisdictions in the nation that was recently selected by the MacArthur Foundation for an outcome study of our local Behavioral Health Court.

We are committed to this population, and have an excellent working relationship amongst all the local stakeholders involved in this population.

Sincerely,

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JUDICIAL COUNCIL
STATE OF CALIFORNIA



July 28, 2005

William C. Vickrey
Administrative Director of the Courts
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Stephen W. Mayberg, Ph.D.
California Department of Mental Health
16000 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Vickrey and Mr. Mayberg:

Thank you for your letter encouraging our collaboration with the local Department of Mental Health in the development of the local plan for the implementation of Proposition 63. Thank you also for your acknowledgement of our activities so far in creating innovative programs.

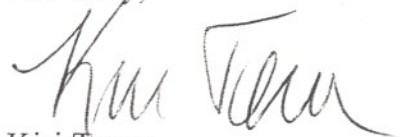
Our Court has developed a close relationship and partnered with the Santa Clara County Department of Mental Health to assist individuals involved in the court system address major issues affecting their ability to lead productive lives and contribute to the community. At the adult level, Judge Stephen Manley became interested in mental health as he saw a large number of defendants in his Treatment Court with significant mental health issues. This interest evolved into a passion that resulted in the establishment of the Mental Health Court which serves mentally ill addicts who have failed in traditional drug treatment programs. Using the drug court model, progress in the completion of the treatment plan for dual diagnosed individuals is judicially monitored. One of the unique features of this program is that psychiatrists are located in the courthouse and see and assist clients on a regular basis who do not meet the "medical necessity test" for mandated services.

In 2001, Juvenile Delinquency Court in collaboration with Probation, the District Attorney, the Public Defender and the Department of Mental Health created the first Juvenile Mental Health Court in the nation. All participants in the juvenile justice system recognized that minors with mental health issues habitually rotate in and out of the system. Treating the underlying mental illness that causes criminal behavior through community-based and family-centered programs and holding the minor accountable are among the goals of the program. Over 130 minors have participated in the Juvenile Mental Health Court of which 59 have graduated. These graduates have returned to school, held jobs, built healthy relationships with their families and for the most part stayed out of court.

While significant efforts have been made by the Court and its partners in addressing the needs of the mentally ill individuals who enter the court system, the Court recognizes that our programs touch only a small portion of a larger population and even our efforts could be improved. With the passage of Proposition 63, this Court saw an opportunity and we wanted to be at the table. We have sent representatives to stakeholder meetings and we sit on the county oversight planning committee. The Court also convened a meeting of all agencies and community-based organizations who support the Court to identify gaps in the various systems so we will be as informed as possible to contribute to the planning process. The Director of the Department of Mental Health also participated in this session. Currently we have several judges and staff who participate on strategy teams for focal populations to prepare the final recommendations for an integrated mental health system of care.

We firmly believe that the Court as a part of the greater community should take an active role in generating solutions to community problems along side of our partners. We plan to continue to take part of this opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kiri Torre", written in a cursive style.

Kiri Torre
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Hon. Alden E. Danner, Presiding Judge
Hon. Stephen V. Manley, Supervising Judge – Drug Court
Hon. Richard J. Loftus, Jr., Supervising Judge – Delinquency Court